

DCRA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH DCRA

How DCRA Serves the District of Columbia

Abatement & Repair

If property owners fail to fix housing or building code violations after we notify them, we make the repairs and bill the owners. We cut illegal grass, remove trash, and tear down buildings.

Business Investigations

We investigate complaints and verify qualifications of businesses that must be licensed in DC. We conduct license compliance surveys and issue Notices of Infraction for violations. Call us if you think a business is operating without proper licenses or otherwise acting illegally.

Basic Business Licenses

We issue business licenses -- renewed every 2 years. Here are examples of businesses that must have Basic Business Licenses (BBLs):

ambulances, asbestos abatement, athletic exhibition, auctions, auto rental/repair/repossession/wash, bakeries, barber chairs/shops, billiard tables, boarding & rooming houses, bowling alleys, bulk fuel storage, candy manufacturers, carnivals, caterers, charitable solicitors, cigarette sales, carnivals/circuses, coop associations, driving schools, dry cleaners, electronic repair, employment services, fireworks sales, food sales, funeral homes, gasoline dealers, groceries, health spas, hearing aid sellers, home improvement sales & work, horse-drawn carriages, ice cream manufacturers, kerosene/solvent/pyroxilin/varsol sales, massage establishments, mattress manufacturing/sales, mechanical amusement machines, motels/hotels/inns/bed & breakfast, motor vehicle dealers/re-inspectors/sellers, moving & storage, moving picture theatres, parking, patent medicines, pawn brokers, pesticide applicators, pet shops, power laundries, public baths, public halls, rental housing (including 1- and 2-family units, apartment buildings), restaurants, 2nd -hand dealers, security alarm sales, skating rinks, solid waste collectors, street vendors, swimming pools, theatres, tour guides, towing.

Civil Infractions

We send DCRA's Notices of Infractions (NOIs) and Notices of Violations (NOVs) to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). We also collect fines, penalties, liens, and fees.

Communications & Customer Service

We provide information about DCRA's work to the press and the public. We help customers with complex questions and special needs.

Condemnation

We investigate buildings for the Board for the Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings (BCIB), so they can decide when buildings should be condemned, repaired, or demolished.

Consumer Protection

We protect consumers from unfair business practices, resolve complaints, take legal action against consumer protection law violators, and educate consumers and businesses protections against unscrupulous businesses.

Corporation Registration

We monitor corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, trade name registrations, corporate reports, and revocations; record articles, applications, amendments, mergers, and dissolutions; and issue certifications, letters of good standing, and reinstatements.

Development Ambassadors

We help large development projects go smoothly: we guide your project through the process, help you work with other DC agencies, look out for and resolve obstacles to keep your project on track.

Homeowners Center

We help homeowners get permits for home improvements and repairs.

Illegal Construction

We protect you by investigating construction without permits or at illegal times. To report illegal construction, call (202) 442-STOP (7867); give the address and describe the work.

Inspections

We inspect construction, renovation, and maintenance in commercial areas and higher density dwelling units. We answer complaints about substandard, illegal and dangerous conditions; and approve corrections.

We inspect residential construction, renovation, maintenance; noise pollution; and neighborhood commercial corridors.

Occupational & Professional Licenses

We license these professions: accounting, appraisal, architecture & interior design, asbestos work, athlete agent, barbering, boxing & wrestling, cosmetology, electricians, engineering, funeral directors, plumbing, real estate, refrigeration & air conditioning, steam engineering and veterinarians.

Permits

We issue building and raze permits, Certificates of Occupancy, and Home Occupation Permits. We also assign new addresses and monitor 32 special signs permits.

Plans Review

We review building plans to make sure they comply with construction codes. We conduct pre-design meetings and schedule 3rd-party reviews.

Special Events

We issue permits for special events -- circuses, rodeos, festivals, fairs, performances, dances, preaching and lectures -- in permanent or temporary structures or vacant land.

Surveyor

We maintain DC's official land plats; and record building plat drawings, subdivisions, street and alley closings, dedications, surveys, wall checks, deed analyses, and condominium plats/records.

Vacant Property

We enforce vacant property registration, maintenance, and upkeep laws to prevent neighborhood blight and decay.

Weights & Measures

We help protect consumers by inspecting commercial weighing and measuring devices, including gas pumps, UPC scanners, and scales in dialysis offices and grocery stores.

Zoning

We review land and building plans to make sure they comply with zoning regulations. We enforce BZA orders and zoning regulation changes, and conduct zoning inspections.

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DCRA protects the health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life of DC residents, businesses, and visitors by issuing licenses and permits, conducting inspections, enforcing building, housing, and safety codes, regulating land use and development, and advocating for and educating consumers.



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